

- The British Columbia inflation rate for November was 3.5%
- BC has fewer smokers (16.7%) than any other province
- Letters to Santa in 2001 for the Vancouver area totalled 88,000

## Prices

- British Columbia's all-items consumer price index (CPI) was 3.5% higher in November than in the same month last year. With the exception of Yukon (2.7%), the year-over-year inflation rate in BC was the lowest in the country. The overall inflation rate for Canada was 4.3%, while Alberta recorded the highest increase, at 9.7%.

Tobacco taxes continued to account for much of the increase in the CPI at both the national and provincial levels. Compared to November 2001, the cost of tobacco products in BC was up 30.6%, while nation-wide, tobacco products cost 31.7% more than a year earlier.

In BC, after tobacco products, the sharpest price increases were in the transportation sector (+8.0%). The price of gasoline (+18.4%) and cost of operating a motor vehicle (+11.4%) were significant contributors to the increase. Consumers paid significantly more for fresh vegetables (+13.8%) in November 2002 compared to a year earlier and food overall was 2.5% more expensive. Shelter costs (+0.8%) rose modestly, largely because increases in taxes and maintenance costs were mitigated by lower prices for piped gas (-3.4%).

*Source: Statistics Canada*

- Vancouver's inflation rate was identical to the provincial average in November (+3.5%), while Victoria experienced slightly higher inflation, at 3.7%. Calgary (+9.9%) and Edmonton (+9.5%) were the cities with the highest year-over-year increases in the overall price level.

*Source: Statistics Canada*

## The Economy

- In October, the number of British Columbians receiving regular employment insurance (EI) benefits stayed fairly constant (+0.1%, seasonally adjusted) at 66,950. Across the country, the number of recipients grew 0.6% to 556,600. Prince Edward Island saw the largest increase in EI recipients (+5.2%). Ontario (-1.4%) was the only province that experienced a decline in the number of EI beneficiaries in October. Canada-wide, the total value of benefits paid out decreased 0.4%.

*Source: Statistics Canada*

- Wholesale trade in BC fell 0.4% (seasonally adjusted) in October. Canadian wholesale trade rose (+0.6%) due to growth in Ontario (+1.7%) and the Maritimes provinces. The biggest increase occurred in New Brunswick (+6.0%). Northwest Territories experienced the largest drop (-21.9%). Wholesale trade of food products in Canada increased 1.1% while sales of beverage, drug and tobacco products were up 2.0%. Farm machinery, equipment and supplies sales fell 0.8%. The sale of lumber and building materials rose 0.5% as did sales of industrial machinery, equipment and supplies.

*Source: Statistics Canada*

- The value of softwood lumber shipments to the United States is down 1.9% year-to-date to October despite the fact that volumes exported are up 8%. Oversupply has resulted in reduced prices for softwood lumber as Canadian producers continue to run full out in an attempt to achieve economic efficiencies that will allow them to stay afloat despite the punishing duties averaging 27.2% on Canadian lumber exports to the United States.

*Source: Statistics Canada*

### Did you know...

A reindeer can carry about 300 pounds and runs at a speed of 14 to 16 miles an hour. If the average toy weighs a pound, that means that Santa can only fill up his sleigh with gifts—or lumps of coal—for 24,000 children on each trip from the North Pole. When Santa makes his rounds in BC, where he'll be visiting about 1.3 million households on Christmas Eve, he'll have to make about 54 trips back to his North Pole headquarters. Luckily his reindeer can fly a lot faster than they run!

- **People spent more money in restaurants in BC during October (+1.4%, seasonally adjusted).** Despite this increase, receipts from drinking establishments fell 4.4% in the same month. This was a little more pronounced than the national fall in drinking places (-2.2%). The value of receipts from restaurants across the nation grew 0.5% in October.

*Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Shipments of goods manufactured in the province grew 2.2% (seasonally adjusted) between September and October.** The increase came primarily from the durables sector (+3.2%). In the printing and related products industry, shipments rose 2.5% after dropping 18.2% in September. On the non-durables side overall shipments grew 0.7%, largely due to a 28.0% jump in the value of clothing shipments. A drop in transportation equipment (-24.4%) and electrical equipment, appliances and components (-10.1%) offset the growth in clothing. Nationally, the value of shipments inched up 0.1%, largely due to higher prices for petroleum and coal products, and a rebound in the wood products industry. Prince Edward Island has the largest gain in shipments in October (+6.1%).

*Source: Statistics Canada*

### Tourism

- **Visitor entries to Canada through BC border crossings rebounded in October, rising 5.8% (seasonally adjusted).** The increase in entries, which was the strongest so far in 2002, was largely due to visits from overseas (+13.1%). Asian entries rose 12.3%, and the number of travellers coming from the Europe increased 4.3%. The number of Americans crossing into BC was up 4.3%, boosted by a strong gain (+16.4%) in overnight visits. Same-day travel from the US was 2.4% higher than in September.

The number of Canadians making same-day trips from BC to the US increased 6.2%.

However, the number of Canadians returning from trips overseas was down 0.2%. Overall, there were 4.5% more Canadians coming home via BC in November than in the previous month.

*Source: Statistics Canada & BC STATS*

### Smoking

- **Fewer people smoke in British Columbia (16.7%) than in any other province.** In a 2001 study, the prevalence of smoking in BC was the lowest in the country. Ontario also had a low rate (19.7%) while all other provinces lingered around the 25% mark. The BC rate was down from an estimated 32.9% in a 1985 survey. Nation wide, 23.9% of men and 19.6% of women smoke. People aged 20-24 were the most likely to light up (32.1%) and seniors aged 65 and over were the least likely (10.8%). The rate of prevalence decreased in all age groups except youths aged 15-19 where there was no statistically significant decrease since 1985. In the 2001 survey 22.5% of people in this age group were smokers.

*Source: SC, Catalogue 82F077XIE, No. 1*

- **The next issue of highlights will be released January 3, 2003.**



**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at BC STATS!**

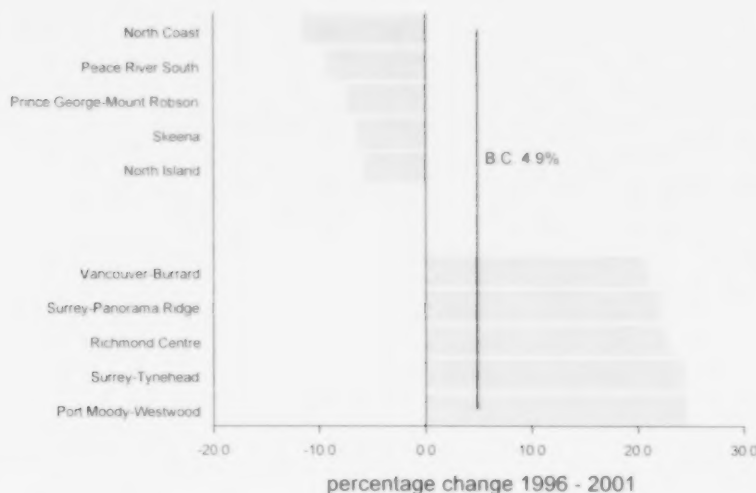
*Infoline Issue: 02-51  
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The third installment in the 2001 Census Fast Fact series by BC STATS

## 2001 Census Fast Facts: *Provincial Electoral Districts*

The populations of 5 Electoral Districts grew by at least 20% between 1996 and 2001.



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The populations of the 79 Provincial Electoral Districts (PED) have varied considerably over the 1996 to 2001 period, as measured by the Census of Canada. Port Moody-Westwood (+24.5%) and Surrey-Tynehead (+24.3%) had the strongest growth among the PEDs. Population increases of greater than 20% were also registered in Richmond Centre, Surrey-Panorama Ridge and Vancouver-Burrard. This compares to growth of 4.9% over the five-year period for the province as a whole. A number of the PEDs registered population declines between 1996 and 2001, notably North Coast (-11.6%) and Peace River South (-9.2%).

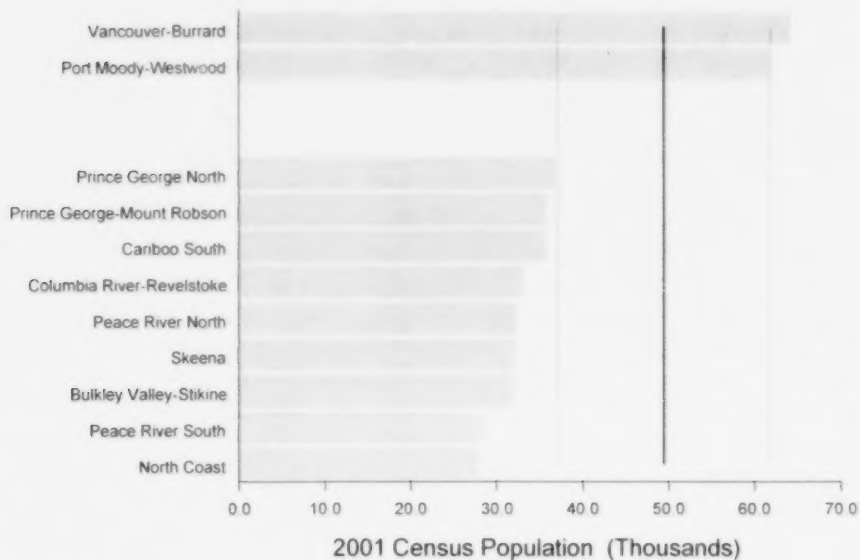
When the current PEDs were delineated by the Electoral Boundaries Commission in 1999, one of the objectives was to have them stay within 25% of the electoral quota (or average PED population) until the next boundary review in about 5 years time. Based on the 1996 Census, six PEDs had populations that were

below 25% of the electoral quota, but represented "very special circumstances" relating to small populations spread over large land areas or the availability of communication and transportation networks. Following the 2001 Census, it appears that three more PEDs (Cariboo South, Prince George-Mount Robson and Prince George North) have fallen below the 25% mark and two others (Cariboo North and Yale-Lillooet) are very close to it. At the other extreme, Vancouver-Burrard is now almost 30% above the electoral quota (49,465 persons) and Port Moody-Westwood is almost 25% above the quota.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that the 1996 and 2001 population data are not strictly comparable. The 1996 Census counts represent the official PED boundaries and were developed from a combination of 1996 block face and enumeration area (EA) data. The 2001 Census counts are based on 2001 dissemination areas (similar to EAs), that do not always correspond exactly to the official PED boundaries. The 2001 dissemination area correspondence to PEDs is used because it is this geographic level that will be used to tabulate data on other characteristics from the census.



Two Electoral Districts are 25% above the electoral quota while nine are below 25%.



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The following table shows the PED populations based on the 1996 and 2001 Censuses.

For maps of the Provincial Electoral Districts and also links to Elections BC maps, please refer to:

[www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/cen96/ped96new/p96index.htm](http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/cen96/ped96new/p96index.htm)

# Total Population (1996 and 2001 Census Counts)

Provincial Electoral Districts	1996*	2001**	% change	% Deviation from average	
				1996	2001
1 Abbotsford-Clayburn	42,909	44,865	4.6	-9.0	-9.3
2 Abbotsford-Mount Lehman	48,464	55,493	14.5	2.8	12.2
3 Alberni-Qualicum	50,789	50,695	-0.2	7.7	2.5
4 Bulkley Valley-Stikine	32,175	31,728	-1.4	-31.8	-35.9
5 Burnaby-Edmonds	49,897	55,741	11.7	5.8	12.7
6 Burnaby North	51,263	53,415	4.2	8.7	8.0
7 Burnaby-Willingdon	48,449	53,380	10.2	2.6	7.9
8 Burquitlam	51,282	53,881	5.1	8.8	8.9
9 Cariboo North	37,505	37,209	-0.8	-20.4	-24.8
10 Cariboo South	36,451	35,678	-2.1	-22.7	-27.9
11 Chilliwack-Kent	43,839	46,975	7.2	-7.0	-5.0
12 Chilliwack-Sumas	43,347	46,700	7.7	-8.1	-5.6
13 Columbia River-Revelstoke	34,056	33,005	-3.1	-27.8	-33.3
14 Comox Valley	54,912	55,314	0.7	16.5	11.8
15 Coquitlam-Maillardville	49,433	50,733	2.6	4.9	2.6
16 Cowichan-Ladysmith	50,641	51,125	1.0	7.4	3.4
17 Delta North	51,248	52,108	1.7	8.7	5.3
18 Delta South	44,682	45,321	1.4	-5.2	-8.4
19 East Kootenay	38,222	38,503	0.7	-18.9	-22.2
20 Esquimalt-Metchosin	46,890	47,671	1.7	-0.5	-3.6
21 Fort Langley-Aldergrove	52,439	56,872	8.5	11.2	15.0
22 Kamloops	48,325	48,959	1.3	2.5	-1.0
23 Kamloops-North Thompson	47,728	48,482	1.6	1.2	-2.0
24 Kelowna-Lake Country	51,304	56,166	9.5	8.8	13.5
25 Kelowna-Mission	52,483	55,040	4.9	11.3	11.3
26 Langley	50,797	54,174	6.6	7.7	9.5
27 Malahat-Juan de Fuca	47,168	50,126	6.3	0.0	1.3
28 Maple Ridge-Mission	53,277	56,951	6.9	13.0	15.1
29 Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows	52,016	56,272	8.2	10.3	13.8
30 Nanaimo	51,447	51,197	-0.5	9.1	3.5
31 Nanaimo-Parksville	51,841	56,076	8.2	10.0	13.4
32 Nelson-Creston	45,101	44,131	-2.2	-4.3	-10.8
33 New Westminster	49,350	54,656	10.8	4.7	10.5
34 North Coast	31,678	27,992	-11.6	-32.8	-43.4
35 North Island	57,051	53,657	-5.9	21.0	8.5
36 North Vancouver-Lonsdale	45,760	48,924	6.9	-2.9	-1.1
37 North Vancouver-Seymour	53,167	54,404	2.3	12.8	10.0
38 Oak Bay-Gordon Head	47,714	47,814	0.2	1.2	-3.3
39 Okanagan-Vernon	55,359	56,926	2.8	17.4	15.1
40 Okanagan-Westside	43,774	47,678	8.9	-7.2	-3.6
41 Peace River North	31,011	32,353	4.3	-34.2	-34.6
42 Peace River South	30,946	28,097	-9.2	-34.4	-43.2
43 Penticton-Okanagan Valley	55,735	56,372	1.1	18.2	14.0
44 Port Coquitlam-Burke Mountain	50,410	55,201	9.5	6.9	11.6
45 Port Moody-Westwood	49,512	61,637	24.5	5.0	24.6
46 Powell River-Sunshine Coast	44,901	45,406	1.1	-4.8	-8.2
47 Prince George-Mount Robson	38,581	35,741	-7.4	-18.2	-27.7

# Total Population (1996 and 2001 Census Counts)

Provincial Electoral Districts	1996*	2001**	% change	% Deviation from average	
				1996	2001
48 Prince George North	38,431	36,696	-4.5	-18.5	-25.8
49 Prince George-Omineca	38,759	39,109	0.9	-17.8	-20.9
50 Richmond Centre	46,286	56,792	22.7	-1.8	14.8
51 Richmond East	51,508	55,576	7.9	9.3	12.4
52 Richmond-Steveston	51,073	51,977	1.8	8.3	5.1
53 Saanich North and the Islands	50,856	52,671	3.6	7.9	6.5
54 Saanich South	47,965	49,585	3.4	1.7	0.2
55 Shuswap	48,389	49,240	1.8	2.6	-0.5
56 Skeena	34,211	32,021	-6.4	-27.4	-35.3
57 Surrey-Cloverdale	41,223	49,122	19.2	-12.6	-0.7
58 Surrey-Green Timbers	49,804	53,132	6.7	5.6	7.4
59 Surrey-Newton	43,199	50,281	16.4	-8.4	1.6
60 Surrey-Panorama Ridge	43,617	53,289	22.2	-7.5	7.7
61 Surrey-Tynehead	47,540	59,081	24.3	0.8	19.4
62 Surrey-Whalley	47,270	48,686	3.0	0.3	-1.6
63 Surrey-White Rock	49,402	52,770	6.8	4.8	6.7
64 Vancouver-Burrard	52,996	64,046	20.9	12.4	29.5
65 Vancouver-Fairview	51,961	54,036	4.0	10.2	9.2
66 Vancouver-Fraserview	50,318	53,062	5.5	6.7	7.3
67 Vancouver-Hastings	53,587	56,683	5.8	13.7	14.6
68 Vancouver-Kensington	51,593	54,056	4.8	9.4	9.3
69 Vancouver-Kingsway	52,482	54,379	3.6	11.3	9.9
70 Vancouver-Langara	51,847	53,459	3.1	10.0	8.1
71 Vancouver-Mount Pleasant	51,961	53,986	3.9	10.2	9.1
72 Vancouver-Point Grey	52,115	56,376	8.2	10.5	14.0
73 Vancouver-Quilchena	53,373	54,709	2.5	13.2	10.6
74 Victoria-Beacon Hill	49,479	49,427	-0.1	4.9	-0.1
75 Victoria-Hillside	47,991	49,093	2.3	1.8	-0.8
76 West Kootenay-Boundary	45,967	44,794	-2.6	-2.5	-9.4
77 West Vancouver-Capilano	48,075	49,000	1.9	2.0	-0.9
78 West Vancouver-Garibaldi	47,604	52,563	10.4	1.0	6.3
79 Yale-Lillooet	38,289	37,197	-2.9	-18.8	-24.8
<b>British Columbia</b>	<b>3,724,500</b>	<b>3,907,738</b>	<b>4.9</b>		
<b>Average PED Population</b>	<b>47,146</b>	<b>49,465</b>			

Source: BC Stats

\* 1996 Census, May 14, 1996

\*\* 2001 Census, May 15, 2001



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 also on the Internet at [www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca](http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca)

## BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)		% change on one year ago
	Jul 1/02	
BC	4,141.3	1.0
Canada	31,414.0	1.0
GDP and INCOME		% change on one year ago
(BC - at market prices)	2001 Revised	
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (\$ millions)	130,859	1.2
GDP (\$ 1997 millions)	123,912	-0.2
GDP (\$ 1997 per Capita)	30,252	-1.1
Personal Disposable Income (\$ 1997 per Capita)	19,513	1.2
TRADE (\$ millions)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments (seas. adj.) Oct	2,936	2.2
Merchandise Exports (seas. adjusted) Sep	2,440	0.6
Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) Sep	3,332	-0.2
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		12-month avg % change
(all items - 1992=100)	Nov '02	
BC	118.9	2.1
Canada	120.8	2.0
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on prev. month
(seasonally adjusted)	Nov '02	
Labour Force - BC	2,183	0.1
Employed - BC	1,997	-0.1
Unemployed - BC	186	2.8
	Oct '02	
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)	8.5	8.3
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)	7.5	7.6
INTEREST RATES (percent)		Dec 18/02 Dec 19/01
Prime Business Rate	4.50	4.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	4.90	4.60
- 5 year	6.70	7.10
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE		Dec 18/02 Dec 19/01
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn \$	1.5537	1.5742
US \$ (reciprocal of the closing rate)	0.6442	0.6350
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on one year ago
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Nov '02	
BC	678.18	4.2
Canada	653.97	2.5

### SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade } Statistics  
 Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Canada  
 Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics  
 For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see [www.bankofcanada.ca](http://www.bankofcanada.ca)

## 2002 Index

Next week's transmission, on or before December 27, will be a single page **Index of 2002 Infoline Reports**. Regular issues will resume on January 10, 2003.



### Released this week by BC STATS

- Consumer Price Index, November 2002
- Business Indicators, December 2002
- Current Statistics, December 2002
- Exports, October 2002

### Next week

- No subscription releases

